

**MY NASA DATA E-note (Number 40)**  
**August/September 2010**

**Greetings MY NASA DATA Alumni and Newslist members!**

*The E-note is sent to anyone who is interested in learning more about or keeping up-to-date with the MY NASA DATA project. If you know someone who is interested in this information, the sign-up can be found at:*

[http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov/HPDOCS/email\\_registration.html](http://eosweb.larc.nasa.gov/HPDOCS/email_registration.html)

- 1. New data available**
- 2. New K-5 lessons**
- 3. New design of Science Focus page**
- 4. Earth Science Week 2010**
- 5. NASA Educators On-Line Network (NEON)**

**1. New data available**

We have added FPAR (Fraction of Photosynthetically Active Radiation) to the Live Access Server. This dataset is now available for the time-period, January 2002 - February 2010. FPAR can be used by scientists and others to help interpret satellite data about vegetation, and will also be of use for simple direct estimates of photosynthetic activity and primary production. FPAR is frequently used with other parameters like Leaf Area Index (LAI) and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). Additionally, we've updated the MISR Aerosol Optical Depth and LAI/NDVI datasets to include the same January 2002 - February 2010 time period. These updates include file consolidation to allow for greater functionality within the LAS system.

FPAR will be featured in future lessons, so please check the site for updates. LAI/NDVI and FPAR are accessible from the "Advanced" version of the LAS. After selecting the Advanced version, select "Biosphere" from the LAS user interface, then select the parameter you'd like to plot. The MISR Aerosol Optical Depth parameter can be accessed from the "Aerosols" menu in the Advanced version of the LAS interface.

Don't forget that you can suggest new parameters and datasets for the LAS. Simply go to the LAS user interface and click on the "suggest a parameter" link in any version; or, visit the submission form by accessing it from the MY NASA DATA home page. We can't guarantee that we can satisfy all requests, but it is useful for us to know your interests.

**2. New K-5 lessons**

Exciting news for teachers, especially for those teaching grades K-5! There are 16 new K-5 lessons available on the Lesson Plans page! The lessons were contributed by Becky

Schnekser, a fifth-grade teacher from Virginia Beach, VA, who worked with the MY NASA DATA team this summer. Just click on the Lessons Plans tab, then Lesson Plans, Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5. When you implement a lesson, remember to use the Feedback button available for each lesson, to let us know how it went and to make suggestions.

#### Grades K-2

Lesson #78: Basic Line Plots  
Lesson #85: Cloudy vs. Clear  
Lesson #81: Creating a Bar Graph  
Lesson #80: Investigating Nitrogen Dioxide  
Lesson #83: Reading Bar Graphs  
Lesson #82: The Sun's Energy  
Lesson #84: Radiation Color Plot (Grades 1 – 5)

#### Grades 3-5

Lesson #84: Radiation Color Plot (Grades 1 – 5)  
Lesson #75: Air Quality  
Lesson #86: Deep Convective Clouds  
Lesson #87: Forest Fires  
Lesson #79: Human Effect  
Lesson #76: Rock Star Precipitation  
Lesson #74: Sailing Trip  
Lesson #77: Seasons  
Lesson #88: Solar Power  
Lesson #73: Tracking Ocean Ecology with Chlorophyll A

### **3. New design of Science Focus page**

The Science Focus page has been updated with a new accordion menu for easier navigation through the large number of links available from that page. In addition to the navigation upgrades, some interesting videos from the NASA Explorer Schools and the Atmospheric Science Data Center have been posted. Also featured are satellite images fed from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, linked to parameters available in the MY NASA DATA Live Access Server. Check out the new page at <http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/science.html>, or by clicking on the "Science Focus" tab on the home page of MY NASA DATA.

### **4. Earth Science Week 2010**

"[American Geological Institute] AGI invites you to take part in Earth Science Week 2010! Being held October 10-16, Earth Science Week 2010 will encourage people everywhere to explore the natural world and learn about the geosciences.

'Exploring Energy', the theme of Earth Science Week 2010, will engage young people and the public in learning about Earth's energy resources." (Ref: Earth Science Week website, <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>).

If you have not already received your Earth Science Week 2010 Toolkit, you may order materials at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/materials/index.html>.

## **5. NASA Educators On-Line Network (NEON)**

"NEON is a professional learning community, open to elementary teachers, STEM teachers, future elementary and STEM teachers, scientists, engineers, and other professionals who want to support STEM teachers in their important work.

The purpose of NEON is to help K-12 teachers and STEM professionals:

- Find each other based on areas of expertise, interests, and needs
- Develop effective collaborations
- Learn from and support each other, and
- Find teaching, learning, and professional development resources."

(Ref: <http://www.ed.psu.edu/educ/news/2010-news-items-april-june/nasa-educators-network>)

For more information and to join NEON, visit the NEON website <http://neon.psu.edu/>